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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/511,621	10/19/2004	Petra Cirpus	12810-00043-US	6556

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EXAMINER	
MCELWAIN, ELIZABETH F	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1638	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/511,621	CIRPUS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Elizabeth F. McElwain	1638	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *07 January 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 4-22* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 4-22* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed January 7, 2009 has been entered.

Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 1 and 4-22 are pending and are examined on the merits.

The finality of the last office action is withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of R1 as general formula II; R2 as unsaturated C2-C4-alkylcarbonyl; and R3 as unsaturated C2-C4-alkylcarbonyl in the reply filed on November 2, 2007 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 16 is objected to for the recitation of "the plant is selected from the group consisting of plant cells, plant tissues . . . and cellular parts of any of the preceding", given that the parts of plants listed in the Markush group are not plants. In addition, "tuber" is misspelled.

3. Claim 15 is objected to for the recitation of "optionally", since there is no longer antecedent basis for this in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1 and 4-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutzon et al (US 6,075,183 issued June 2000) taken with Beaudoin et al (PNAS Vol. 97, No. 12: 6421-6426) and Parker-Barnes et al (PNAS Vol. 97, No. 15: 8284-8289, July 19, 2000).

7. The claims are drawn to a method for producing compounds in a plant that comprise any of fatty acids from 9 carbons to 24 carbons and any of one double bond to five double bonds, wherein the sum of all of said fatty acids comprises at least 1% by weight of total fatty acid content, and the plant is produced by transforming the plant with a nucleic acid encoding a delta-6 desaturase, a delta-6 elongase, and a delta-5 desaturase, then growing and harvesting the plant.

8. Knutzon et al teach producing polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) by transforming plants, including the oilseed plant Brassica (canola, Example 7) with constructs comprising nucleic acids encoding a delta-6 desaturase (Examples 2 and 8) or a delta-5 desaturase (Examples 1 and 7) in a construct operably linked to regulatory sequences for producing PUFAs including those with at least 20 carbon atoms and up to five carbon-carbon double bonds, and extacting the fatty acids from the plant seeds. Knutzon et al also teach that other delta-6

desaturase and a delta-5 desaturase coding sequences can be obtained from a variety of species using known methods (columns 5-6 and Example 3). In addition, Knutzon et al teach a delta-12 desaturase coding sequence (Example 4) and that two or more genes may be introduced into a host cell (column 10, lines 39-45). Knutzon et al also teach the enzymatic pathways for synthesis of PUFAs (Figures 1 and 2) using a delta-6 desaturase, a delta-6 elongase and a delta-5 desaturase, as well as other desaturases, such as a delta-12 desaturase, for example. Knutzon et al teach the desirability of producing PUFAs in plants in view of their value as dietary supplements and for pharmaceutical formulations, for example (see columns 1-2, for example).

9. Knutzon et al do not specifically teach a nucleic acid encoding a delta-6 elongase. Knutzon et al also do not specifically teach co-transformation with the coding sequences for all three of: a delta-6 elongase, a delta-6 desaturase and a delta-5 desaturase.

10. Beaudoin et al teach a nucleic acid encoding an elongase, which is shown to act as a delta-6 elongase by production of the expected products (see page 6423, the second column), and co-expression of this elongase with a delta-6 desaturase and a delta-5 desaturase coding sequence in yeast to produce PUFAs, such as arachidonic acid (see Table 3, for example). Beaudoin et al also teach that an enzymatic pathway for production of PUFAs requires a delta-6 desaturase, a delta-6 elongase and a delta-5 desaturase (see Figure 1).

11. Parker-Barnes et al teach a nucleic acid encoding a delta-6 elongase, and co-expression of this delta-6 elongase with a delta-5 desaturase coding sequence in yeast to produce PUFAs, such as arachidonic acid. Parker-Barnes et al also teach that the enzymatic pathway for production of PUFAs that requires a delta-6 desaturase, a delta-6 elongase and a delta-5 desaturase.

12. Given the recognition of those of ordinary skill in the art of the value of producing PUFAs in plants for the purpose of improving nutrition by transforming plants with nucleic acids encoding enzymes in the biosynthetic pathway, as taught by Knutzon et al, it would have been obvious to co-transform a plant with coding sequences for a delta-5 desaturase, a delta-6 desaturase and an elongase, given the teachings of Beaudoin et al of co-transforming yeast with these three genes, and it would have been obvious to use any known coding sequences for any of these enzymes, including the delta-6 elongase coding sequence taught by Parker Barnes et al. In addition, the method used for liberating the fatty acids is a matter of choice, as is the choice of oilseed plant species, and the particular amount of a given fatty acid would be the optimization of process parameters that would depend on the gene expression, the plant species, the developmental stage of the plant or seed and the growth conditions. Thus the claimed invention would have been prima facie obvious as a whole at the time the invention was made, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth F. McElwain whose telephone number is (571) 272-0802. The examiner can normally be reached on increased flex time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached on (571) 272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EFM

/Elizabeth F. McElwain/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1638